GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4949
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
CURE FOR EPILEPSY
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `poor drugs lend to epilepsy problem` appearing in the Indian Express on November 14, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether epilepsy is a wrongly understood disease and more awareness has to created in this regard;

(d) the awareness campaign launched by the Government to educate the public in this disease; and

(e) the steps taken to make drugs available for the disease in CGHS Dispensaries in adequate quantity?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in answer to Lok Sabha Unstarrcd Question No. 4949 for 20.12.2000

Epilepsy is a brain disorder occurring due to excess electrical discharge emanating from the neurons of the brain.

The control of epilepsy depends upon correct diagnosis, adequate dosage of anti-epileptic drugs, and compliance by the patients. Epilepsy is also associated with misconception and myths about its nature, and, therefore, some people with epilepsy do not seek medical treatment, which is not only affordable but can also be very effective in the control of epilepsy.

The Indian Epilepsy Association, the Indian Academy of Neurology and Neurological Society of India disseminate information about epilepsy amongst doctors, other professionals and the public. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore has developed a district-model of epilepsy care to provide training to district medical officers to diagnose and treat people with epilepsy. They are also trained to provide counseling to the patients and their families to remove the stigma attached to epilepsy.

As far as the quality of drugs under CGHS is concerned, the CGHS procures all the listed formulary drugs from the MSO, which tests each lot of medicine batch-wise, and supplies are effected only after the receipt of satisfactory test-report from the Government laboratory. The medicines are supplied to CGHS beneficiaries on advice of the attending physician.